

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AGR-20 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 STR-08

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5356

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PASS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAGR: GW

SUBJECT: FEDERAL REPUBLIC STATEMENTS ON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

1. IN A RECENT SPEECH MADE TO THE HESSE FARMERS UNION, GIESSEN, UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, HANS JUERGEN ROHR, STATED THAT IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO MAKE PREDICTIONS ABOUT THE COMMISSION PROPOSALS FOR CHANGING THE EC AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM. HOWEVER, ONE THING CAN BE SAID WITH CERTAINTY -- " THERE WILL NOT BE AN ABSOLUTE AND REVOLUTIONARY CHANGE OF THE SYSTEM".

2. ROHR ALSO ADDED THAT THE BRITISH DEFICIENCY PAYMENT SYSTEM, WHICH IS FREQUENTLY MENTIONED AS AN ALTERNATIVE IN THE GERMAN PRESS, IS NOT A SOLUTION TO OUR PROBLEM. THE COST OF THE DEFICIENCY PAYMENT SYSTEM, ACCORDING TO ROHR, WOULD BE SEVERAL TIMES HIGHER THAN THE PRESENT EC MARKET SUPPORTS. MOREOVER, ADOPTION OF THE SYSTEM WOULD ADD SUBSTANTIAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS.

3. BUT IN REJECTING THE UNIVERSAL APPLICATION OF " GENERAL INCOME AIDS", ROHR STATED THAT THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT THE CONCEPT IS NOT APPLICABLE TO SPECIFIC REGIONS OR TO SELECT FARM GROUPS. THE UNCLASSIFIED

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THIS MUST BE EXAMINED FURTHER. WE MUST ALSO EXAMINE CRITICALLY WHETHER IT IS POSSIBLE TO ABOLISH SOME OF THE " TOO PERFECT REGULATIONS" IN THE PRESENT SYSTEM. SURPLUS PRODUCTION, ESPECIALLY OF MILK AND WHEAT, MUST ALSO BE SOLVED.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: ROHR' S STATEMENTS ON HELP TO SELECT FARMERS AND SPECIFIC REGIONS SHOULD BE VIEWED AS POLITICAL BAIT TO THE SMALL FARMERS IN THE HESSEN AREA. THE BROADER VIEW TO RE- EXAMINE SURPLUS PRODUCTION, HOWEVER, FOLLOWS RECENT GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES FOR STABILIZATION, WHICH CALLED FOR AN EXAMINATION AND FOR A POSSIBLE REDUCTION OF SURPLUS PRODUCTION IN CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL AREAS. HILLENBRAND

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